

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (previously presented) A method for detecting the putative agent for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies comprising taking a body tissue sample from an animal reacting the sample in an immunological assay with a labeled antibody which is capable of reacting with prion protein – scrapie and determining the amount of labeled antibody bound to the sample, wherein the antibody is one or more prion specific antibodies raised against one or more of the sequences selected from the group consisting of the sequence listed below:

MVKSHIGSWILVLFVAMWSDVGLCKKRPKPGGGWNTGGSRYPDN – 44 (Seq. ID No. 1),

GSPGGNRYPPQGGGGWGQPHGGGWGQPHGGGWGQPHGGGQGQP – 87 (Seq. ID No. 2),

GGGGWGQGGSHSQWNKPSKPPKTNMKHVAGAAAGAVVGGLGGY – 131 (Seq. ID No. 3) and

MLGSAMSSPLIHFGNDYEDRYTRENMYRYPNQVYYRPVDRYSNQNN – 177 (Seq. ID No. 4).

Claims 2 and 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the antibodies are antibodies raised against sequences 27-45 of Sequence I.D. No. 1, sequences 1-15 of Sequence I.D. No. 2, or sequences 1-39 of Sequence I.D. No. 3.

[KRPKPGGGWNTGGSRYPDN, GSPGGNRYPPQGGGG, or GGGGWGQGGSHSQWNKPSKPPKTNMKHVAGAAAGAVVGGLGGY – 131 (Seq. ID No. 3) listed in claim 1.]

Claim 5. (original) A method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the immunological assay may be a competitive assay in which a solid support, suitably a

microtitre plate, is pre-coated with a carrier protein-peptide conjugate, the animal tissue sample and an anti-peptide antibody are added to the solid support, allowed to react and the support washed, a labeled anti-(anti-peptide antibody) antibody is added, allowed to react, washed, a signal reagent added and the signal read.

Claim 6. (original) The method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the animals are selected from cattle, sheep, pigs and the tissue sample is taken from a carcass of such animals.

Claim 7. (original) A method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein a sample of CNS tissue, suitably a cross-section of spinal cord, is used for testing.

Claim 8. (previously presented) A test kit for the detection of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in animals comprising an anti-peptide antibody raised against a synthetic peptide sequence selected from the group consisting of:  
MVKSHIGSWILVLFVAMWSDVGLCKKRPKPGGGWNTGGSRYPDN – 44 (Seq. ID No. 1),  
GSPGGNRYPPQGGGGWGQPHGGGWGQPHGGGWGQPHGGGQGQP – 87 (Seq. ID No. 2),  
GGGGWGQGGSHSQWNKPSKPPKTNMKHVAGAAAGAVVGGLGGY – 131 (Seq. ID No. 3) and  
MLGSAMSSPLIHFGNDYEDRYTRENMYRYPNQVYYRPVDRYSNQNN – 177 (Seq. ID No. 4).